

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-16, 18, 20, and 22 are currently pending in the above-referenced application. Claim 21 is canceled herein. Claims 12 and 22 are amended herein. Entry and consideration of this paper is respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference the arguments set forth in the previous Response, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the Affidavits previously filed in the instant case prior to the Examiner initiating examination on the merits of the pending claims. Applicant also respectfully requests an in-person interview at a time convenient to Examiner Gort, and asks that Examiner Gort call Applicant's undersigned representative to schedule such an interview at her earliest convenience.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the pending claims were subject to a restriction requirement as claims 12-16, 18, and 20-22 ("Group II") were directed to a process and claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, and 23 ("Group I") were directed to an apparatus for the practice of the process. The Examiner further argued that some elements of the Group II claims, as previously pending, can be performed by hand or in a person's mind, and that therefore the Group II claims were independent. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion that elements of the claims could be performed by hand or in a person's mind. However, in an effort to expedite examination of all of the pending claims, Applicant has amended claim 12, the independent claim from which the remainder of the Group II claims depend, to more clearly recite that the various elements are performed via one of a server or a client. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that the grounds for the restriction requirement are moot, and Applicant respectfully requests that examination commence on the merits of all of the pending claims. If, after review of the amendments made herein, the Examiner is still of the opinion that Groups I and II are distinct and subject to restriction, Applicant provisionally elects Group I for prosecution.

CONCLUSION

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action, it is submitted that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance and Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is courteously requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0653. If an extension of time is required, this should be considered a petition therefor. If the fees associated with a Request for Continued Examination are filed herewith, this should be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 6, 2007 By: / James E. Goepel /

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